

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7-10 and 12-14 are pending. By this amendment, the subject matter of claim 2 is incorporated into claim 1, claim 1 is canceled, and claim 14 is amended to depend from claim 1.

The Office Action indicates that claims 3, 5, 7-10 and 12-14 are allowed and that claim 2 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

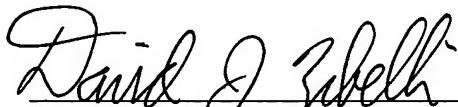
Because the subject matter of claim 2 is incorporated into claim 1, the rejection of claim 1 under 35 USC § 103 over Kondou (U.S. Pat. 6,377,017) in view of Kimura (U.S. Pat. 5,739,650) and Atarashi (U.S. Pat. 6,700,400) is moot. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as presently written are allowable and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 220-4200 to discuss any matter concerning this application.

The Office is authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 or credit of any overpayment to Kenyon & Kenyon Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,



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